



May 8, 2023

Delivered orally

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin & Nelson, and committee members:

Interim Chief Executive Officer
Emily Gilliland

For the record, my name is Jonathan Frochtzwaig; I'm the Public-Policy Manager for Cascade AIDS Project, or CAP. Founded in 1985 as a grassroots response to the AIDS crisis, CAP is now the largest provider of HIV services in Oregon.

Board of Directors

President
Miguel Villarreal
Kaiser Permanente

I am testifying in support of the -A2 amendment to Senate Bill 608. There are not enough generic HIV treatment medications, so most people living with HIV rely on overpriced brand-name drugs. For some, the *only* way they can afford their meds is by using co-pay assistance to reach their annual deductible. When insurance companies don't count co-pay assistance toward consumers' deductibles, even for drugs with no generic equivalent, it puts people living with HIV at risk of falling out of treatment and undercuts public-health efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

Vice President
Kris Young
Nike

Secretary
William E. Spigner
Nike

Insurance companies say they need co-pay assistance limits to prevent consumers from choosing brand-name and other costly drugs over generic, less costly ones. However, the -A2 amendment to SB 608 *only* prohibits co-pay assistance limits when a consumer is using the assistance for a medication that has no generic equivalent, or a medication for which the consumer has demonstrated medical need. In other words, if this amended bill passes, insurers will still be able to limit co-pay assistance for drugs with a generic equivalent, and insurers will still be able to use prior-authorization requirements and other utilization-management techniques to keep consumers on lower-cost drugs.

Treasurer
Edwin Kietzman
Pacific Seafood Group

At Large
Daniel Borgen
New Seasons Market

At Large
Natalia Williams
Bayside Communities

Tracy A. Curtis
Wells Fargo Bank

Eric Garcia
Multnomah County

CJ Grub
R1

Daniel Guilfoyle
Native American Youth &
Family Center (NAYA)

CAP supports policies that *fairly* address inflated prescription-drug prices, including establishing upper payment limits. Co-pay assistance limits, or co-pay accumulators, are not fair. Created by insurance companies, not public policymakers, they place the burden of addressing high drug prices on healthcare consumers who have chronic conditions and no good choices. A growing number of public-interest advocates support this bill; in addition to the ones you've heard from here today, these include SEIU, the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, and the Oregon State Pharmacy Association. We hope that you will join us—thank you.

Rhodes Perry
Rhodes Perry Consulting, LLC

Kaydie Satein
PeaceHealth of
SW Washington

Jeffrey W. Woodcox
Tonkon Torp LLP

t > 503 223 5907
f > 503 223 6437
capnw.org